

[Greenfield (Porter Corners), Saratoga Co. NY]

THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PORTER'S CORNERS.

The church building erected by this society was built in the year 1816. The pioneers of the denomination had, prior to this time, held meetings irregularly at the schoolhouses and at private houses. The society was regularly organized and incorporated in 1819, at which time there were thirty members. The society was styled the First Universalist Church and Society of Greenfield.

The organization has been kept alive ever since, and two trustees are elected annually. The membership has fluctuated considerably, and is now about the same as at the first. The officers of the church were Frederick Parkman, Abner Medbury, and John W. Creal, who composed the first board of trustees. Mark A. Childs and John Harris presided at the first meeting. From 1840 to 1844 a flourishing Sunday-school and Bible-class, consisting of some sixty scholars, was held, but it died out about that time, and has never been resuscitated.

The first clergyman who ministered at this church was Rev. Hosea Parsons, and after him came Revs. Dolphus Skinner, ----- Cook, ----- [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, ----- Hathaway, ----- Patterson, and others, whose names are not remembered. At present the church is without any pastor. The present officers are John S. Peacock, clerk; N.D. Morehouse, Luther Cady, Charles S. Latham, Nathan Medbury, John R. Harris, Levis S. Mills, trustees.

The upper part of the church was finished off for a hall, and the Freemasons occupied it for many years before 1870, when they removed to Greenfield Centre. The hall is now occupied by Empire Lodge, No. 965, I.O.G.T.

Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, History of the Villages and Towns of Saratoga County.
Greenfield (Part 1), from *History of Saratoga County, New York* (1878), p. 444